AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the Claims as follows:

Claims 1 – 31.   (Cancelled)

32.   (New) A dust control mat having a textile layer and a backing layer, wherein the backing layer is made of rubber, and wherein the textile layer comprises a spacer fabric having (a) a first fabric layer that forms the upper surface of the mat, said first fabric layer comprising a mesh having a number of openings, (b) a second fabric layer that forms the lower surface of the textile layer, said second fabric layer having a substantially closed structure and being bonded to the rubber backing layer, and (c) an intermediate pile layer that interconnects and spaces said first and second fabric layers.

33.   (New) The dust control mat according to Claim 32, in which the openings of the mesh of said first fabric layer have a width of between 0.5mm and 10mm.

34.   (New) The dust control mat according to Claim 33, in which the openings of the mesh of said first fabric layer have a width of between 1mm and 4mm.

35.   (New) The dust control mat according to Claim 34, in which the openings of the mesh of said first fabric layer have a width of between 2mm and 3mm.

36.   (New) The dust control mat according to Claim 32, in which the first fabric layer is a knitted fabric of approximately gauge 11.

37.   (New) The dust control mat according to Claim 32, in which the second fabric layer is a knitted fabric of approximately gauge 22 or higher.

38.   (New) The dust control mat according to Claim 32, in which the first fabric layer and the second fabric layer are made of multifilament polyester yarns.

39.   (New) The dust control mat according to Claim 38, in which the first fabric layer and the second fabric layer are made of a yarn having a decitex in the range of from 100 to 200.

40.   (New) The dust control mat according to Claim 32, in which the intermediate pile layer has a thickness of from 2mm to 10mm.

41.   (New) The dust control mat according to Claim 32, in which the intermediate pile layer is made from monofilament yarns having a diameter in the range of from 0.04mm to 3mm.

42.   (New) The dust control mat according to Claim 41, in which the intermediate pile layer is made from polyester monofilament yarns.

43.   (New) The dust control mat according to Claim 32, wherein the backing layer is made of nitrile rubber.

44.   (New) The dust control mat according to Claim 43, wherein the thickness of the rubber backing layer is from 0.5mm to 5mm.

45.   (New) The dust control mat according to Claim 32, in which the rubber backing layer is vulcanised to the second fabric layer.

46.   (New) The dust control mat according to claim 32, wherein the textile layer is printed.

47.   (New) The dust control mat according to claim 46, in which the textile layer is printed with an image having an observable resolution of at least 75dpi.

48.   (New) The dust control mat according to claim 32, wherein the textile layer has an area of at least 1 m^2.

49.   (New) A method of manufacturing a dust control mat, the method including the steps of (a) providing a textile layer, the textile layer comprising a spacer fabric having a first fabric layer comprising a mesh having a number of openings, a second fabric layer having a substantially closed structure, and an intermediate pile layer that interconnects and spaces said first fabric layer and said second fabric layer; (b) providing a backing layer made of rubber; and (c) bonding the backing layer to the second fabric layer by vulcanization in a heated press, such that the first fabric layer becomes the face of said dust control mat.

50.   (New) The method according to Claim 49, in which the spacer fabric is a Raschel knit fabric.

51.   (New) The method according to Claim 49, wherein the first fabric is printed using a sublimatic printing process during step (c).

52.   (New) The method according to Claim 49, wherein the textile layer is printed using a sublimatic printing process after step (c).

53.   (New) The method according to Claim 52, wherein said printing process results in an observable print resolution of at least 75 dpi.